

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-07 /014 R

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R 162124Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T STATE 161420

FOL TEL SENT ACTION BONN, LONDON, NATO, INFO CINCLANT
COMICEDEFOR 15 AUG 73 REPEATED TO YOU

QTE S E C R E T STATE 161420

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO,IC, MARR

SUBJECT:IDF RETENTION ISSUE

1. IN MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
PORTER, ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR HARALDUR KROYER REVIEWED IDF
RETENTION ISSUE FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM VISIT TO ICELAND.
KROYER SAID THAT LATENT DESIRE OF ICELANDERS TO HAVE
FOREIGN FORCES LEAVE THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN GIVEN STRONG
IMPETUS BY FISHERIES DISPUTE WITH GREAT BRITAIN. PRESSURES
FOR REMOVAL OF IDF ARE STRONGER TODAY THAN KROYER HAD
IMAGINED BEFORE HIS VISIT TO ICELAND. PRIME MINISTER
JOHANNESSON TOLD KROYER THAT SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS
WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IF BASE IS TO REMAIN IN ICELAND. IF
AN ACCEPTABLE PACKAGE CAN BE WORKED OUT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH
US, PROGRESSIVES WILL PRESENT IT TO CABINET AND PARLIAMENT
AND WILL STAND OR FALL ON ITS ACCEPTANCE.

2. REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS KROYER SAID GOI WOULD LIKE
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FORMAL TALKS TO BEGIN SHORTLY AFTER NATO REPORT HAS BEEN

RECEIVED WHICH SHOULD BE SOME TIME IN LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER. FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON PLANS TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS AND HAS APPOINTED GIZURARSSON TO ASSIST HIM. GIZURARSSON WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE US FOR BRIEFINGS IN MID-SEPTEMBER. AGUSTSSON PLANS TO ATTEND OPENING OF UNGA AND HAS ASKED TO MAKE HIS ADDRESS ON SEPTEMBER 27. HE WOULD AT THAT TIME LIKE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SECRETARY.

3. AMBASSADOR PORTER SAID WE APPRECIATE KROYER'S GIVING US THIS INSIGHT. WE SHALL AWAIT NATO REPORT WITH INTEREST AND WE ARE CONFIDENT WE CAN CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS PREVAILED BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ICELAND. WE ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING ENTIRE BASE QUESTION AND WILL BE PREPARED TO BEGIN FORMAL TALKS WHEN GOI DESIRES. A BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON AND SECRETARY WOULD BE MOST USEFUL. ROGERS UNQTE ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE161420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/NE:EWFLAISHER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730832/aaaaaxox.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <19-Sep-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IDF RETENTION ISSUE
TAGS: MARR, IC, NATO
To: REYKJAVIK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005